

TOWN OF ESSEX
STORMWATER (MS4) WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021
Zoom Meeting

The Essex Stormwater (MS4) Working Group Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 by Zoom.

Attendees

William Drouin (Apex Co)
Lisa Fasulo (Health Director)
Carey Duques (Land Use Official)
Rebecca Talamini (MapGeo GIS)
Jessica Sypher (Assessor)
Robert Doane (Town Engineer)
John Guskowski (Town Planner)
Alyson Finnegan (First Selectman's Office)

Absent

Norman Needleman (First Selectman)
Ryan Welch (DPW)
Joe Budrow (Planning/Zoning/IWWC/Land Use)

Bill Drouin reported that he spoke to the NEMO group at UConn and they think the Town has done a good job of maintaining our compliance with the MS4 Permit but it's time to make progress. Bill reported that the Town doesn't have impaired waterways so we aren't facing a deadline to get the inspections done.

Bill reported that Rebecca Talamini gave him great information on the catch basins and catch systems. He has a variety of wall maps that delineate the location of all the outfalls and catch basins that delineate the drainage basins for each outfall. Bill would like to move forward with the inspections of the outfalls. A prioritized list of outfalls must be organized using the following criteria:

- Outfalls discharging into Connecticut River
- Outfalls discharging into Falls River
- Highly urbanized areas {greater than 11% DCIA}
- Septic system failures and/or complaints
- Historic Analysis

Bill is finishing the IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination) report which will give us a better guide as to how to address these areas and organize them into high and low priority catchment areas. The report outlines what the Town has done in terms of investigating catchment basins and outfalls based on the results from the analytical DCIA (Directly Connected Impervious Areas) reports. In some urbanized areas we have DCIA greater than 11% and we also have outfalls that suggest E-coli. Bill will give these areas to Ryan to do a visual inspection which can be done during wet and dry weather. The inspection will be observational, with a little intuition, looking for odor, color, foam and/or plant growth. Samples will need to be collected in order to find out the cause of the smell or foam, etc. Ryan has a checklist to help with the investigation. Once all the outfalls are inspected we can walk back through to the drainage areas and into the catch basin system to find the illicit discharge and then fix it.

Bill would like the detailed information on the outfalls that have already been sampled.

Bill shared a map that shows catchment and drainage areas and outfalls and there was general discussion of the map. There are 179 total outfalls (CT River, Falls River, Patchogue River) and there are almost 1,000 catch basins in Essex.

There was general discussion about the Patchogue River outfalls.

Bill asked Bob to provide the group with a list of outfalls that can be determined as low priority, i.e. they have low DCIA, no residential or industrial impact, and historical analysis.

There was general discussion about an outfall that will be removed at 42 Crosstrees Hill.

There was general discussion about zoning regulations and stormwater management and interdepartmental coordination. New development requires that the pertinent departments review.

Lisa asked Bill to submit the Annual Report Draft.

Bill mentioned the new ordinance that gives the Town the authority to go to a private property and ask them to fix their illicit discharge to the system.

Bill said that any changes we make to residential impact stormwater discharge either via LID (low impact development), infiltration galleries, or stormwater infiltration, need to be tracked. Repaired septic system failures also need to be tracked. Lisa can map out septic repairs per parcel.

Bill confirmed that Rebecca did the 2017 outfall inspections. He asked Rebecca if the Town has asked to reinspect any of these outfalls and Rebecca said that Ryan is finishing up verifying the outfalls that Rebecca didn't get to. Only 22 were not verified. Bob will help prioritize the outfalls and pinpoint the outfalls that have always been sampled. We should also look at the outfalls near new residential or commercial construction.

Alyson Finnegan will work with Bill on the new Stormwater (MS4) Essexct.gov web page. Bill would very much like to have a place on the page where residents can report illicit discharge. Alyson will use Facebook and Instagram to promote public awareness on the stormwater program.

Bob reported that he attended a Disconnect webinar. A disconnection is a redirection of water. Bob stated that if we have an opportunity to implement a disconnect in our downtown area we will do it.

Bill said that we are being driven by regulation to do 2% per year in those high DCIA areas.

In summation, Ryan will look at these prioritized outfalls. Rebecca will send out updated outfall reports to the group. Lisa asked if updated reports were updated on MapGeo and Rebecca confirmed that they are.

Next Stormwater Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 11:00 am via Zoom